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A strong gust drives wind energy in Maryland and a "green" dream home is realized

What's happening at MEA

Last week, MEA Director Malcolm Woolf joined [Gov. Martin O'Malley at Fort Armistead Park](#) in Baltimore to promote the job-creating potential of offshore wind. A proposed offshore wind farm would generate up to 4,000 construction jobs and 800 permanent jobs in Maryland alone. By growing "green" jobs and generating clean energy, Maryland continues to move towards a future that is [Smart, Green & Growing](#).

This week, Maryland-based [Trans-Elect Development Co. has received the backing of investors](#), including Google, for a proposed 350-mile underwater network that would connect 6,000 megawatts of power to 13 states and Washington, D.C. This effort would make offshore wind more affordable for Maryland in Governor O'Malley's goal to produce 20 percent of our energy from renewable resources by 2022.

Wind turbine system transforms country home into "green" dream house



Maier Residence 10 kW Bergey Wind Turbine

Skeptics of clean energy's impact should consider Henry and Nancy Maier, the Allegany County couple who converted a charming, three-story farmhouse into their very own "green" paradise. The couple's fully operational wind turbine system generates enough energy to power their 2,500 square foot residence with energy to spare.

"The wind technology is expensive up front, so grants are really the key for us," said Henry. The couple received a

\$10,000 Windswept Grant, which reduced the preliminary costs of the turbine system significantly. MEA spearheaded efforts to acquire and

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install a Bergey 10 kW grid-tied wind turbine, which generates electricity by harnessing 10 to 75 mph winds.

"We now look forward to receiving our electric bills," said Henry. "For the past nine months they have been under \$5 per month – a minimum charge to stay grid-tied."

Henry recalled his first energy bill after the system was active. Thinking a \$4 electric bill was a mistake, he called his utility provider. Not only was the bill correct, but the Maiers had accumulated a credit of \$100.

In addition to enjoying free electricity, the couple earned \$800 in Maryland Clean Energy Production Tax Credits. They claimed an additional \$22,000 from the Federal government's Residential Renewable Energy Tax Credit.

"We recently found that there is a lot of public interest," said Henry. The couple hosted an open house in the spring of 2010, which attracted families, individuals and businesses, including manufacturers like Bergey Wind Power. "They want to verify for themselves the benefits of wind, solar and bio technology."

The couple, part owners of LNH Enterprises, a renewable energy dealer in Oldtown, promote clean energy production in other ways as well. They plan to host a free grant-writing class this fall in Western Maryland to assist homeowners and small businesses in acquiring grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$20,000. "We plan to focus on the Maryland Windswept and solar grants programs," said Maier.

The couple is currently working toward installing a similar system on their business offices by spring 2011, and they will continue to work closely with MEA to make this happen.

"If the country had been doing this 30 years ago, we would have no energy crisis," said Henry in an interview with the Cumberland Times-News. "This is the way houses should have been built going back 30 years. For people who say this isn't the answer and this isn't the future, hey, take note, this is already happening."

MEA's Windswept Grant Program has granted \$508,000 to Marylanders since its start in 2007, which helped install 61 wind turbine systems across the state or about 280 kilowatts of installed capacity.

- Get more information about the [Windswept Grant Program](#).
- Get more information about [LNH Enterprises](#).
- Get more information about the [Maryland Clean Energy Production Tax Credit](#).
- Get more information about the [Federal Residential Renewable Energy Tax Credit](#).
- Get more information about the [Maryland Energy Administration](#).

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